

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, and 8-11 are pending in this application. Claims 13-17 and 21-24 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer as non-elected claims. Claims 2, 4, and 8 are being amended. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 12, and 18-20 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any subject matter.

Restriction Requirement

In a telephone conversation with Applicants' undersigned representative on January 31, 2005, the Examiner proposed oral restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 between:

Group I Claims 1-12 and 18-20; and

Group II Claims 13-17 and 21-24.

In a telephone conversation on February 1, 2005, Applicants' representative advised the Examiner that Applicants provisionally elected to prosecute Group I, corresponding to claims 1-12 and 18-20, without traverse. Applicants hereby affirm this election of Group I. Claims 13-17 and 21-24 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as the non-elected claims of Group II.

Claims 2 and 4

Claims 2 and 4 are being amended to depend from claim 8.

Claim 8

The Examiner objected to claim 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Base claim 8 is being amended to include the limitations of claim 12, and there are not any intervening claims. Thus, the amendment of claim 8 does not introduce any new subject matter and claim 8 should be allowed. Claims 2, 4, and 9-11 should be allowed for at least the reason that they are dependent from allowable claim 8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 23, 2005

By: _____



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